



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: August 16, 2011

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Administrative Division, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Request From Councilmembers Self And Rowse On Maintenance
And Protection Of City Of Santa Barbara Bus, Truck, Capacity,
Emergency, And Evacuation Routes

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council consider a request from Councilmembers Self and Rowse to establish new policies that would preserve the current bus, truck, capacity, emergency and evacuation routes established by the Santa Barbara Municipal Code.

DISCUSSION:

Councilmembers Self and Rowse have requested that Council consider their request to establish new City policies that would preserve the current bus, truck, capacity, emergency, and evacuation routes established by the Santa Barbara Municipal Code (Attachment 1).

The Fire Department currently maintains a Primary Emergency Response Map (Attachment 2) which identifies the roads that need to be maintained in such a way as to retain low response times. This map was developed in the 1990s to accompany the City's Speed Hump Policy as a way to determine streets that are not appropriate for the installation of speed humps. Although the City no longer installs speed humps, the map is still used to coordinate with the Fire Department when various types of roadway devices are used. For example, the use of a stop sign is to be discouraged, if possible, on a Primary Response Route.

The installation of curb extensions, medians, mini roundabouts, and the restriping of lanes, as well as other types of traffic modifications that involve the reduction of lane capacity or lane narrowing, currently require the prior input of the Fire Department if the device is on its Primary Response Route. The Fire Department's input is also requested when it is off the Primary Response Routes, particularly where the change or improvement could impact its ability or the amount of space necessary to respond to an emergency at any address. For example, the Fire Department requires a minimum of 20 and 16 feet for the set up of its equipment on public streets and on certain private properties, respectively.

The Public Works Department routinely works with the Metropolitan Transit District (MTD) when conducting operational changes or designing capital roadway improvements, even when the improvement is not necessarily on an existing MTD bus route or potential future route. MTD bus turning requirements, for example, have prevented the installation of curb extensions in certain locations. MTD's Bus Route Maps are included as Attachments 3 and 4.

Truck routes and turning radii are treated differently than Fire Emergency Apparatus and MTD buses, primarily because trucks can be much larger. Although unwritten, it is the standard practice of City staff to design streets and radius requirements for a standard truck that is 30 feet in length. A typical city intersection within the core street grid requires a truck of greater than 30 feet to use the opposing traffic lanes to negotiate right turns and left turns in some cases, depending on the position of on-street parallel parking. To design for larger trucks would generally require wider roads and lane widths throughout the City.

Regarding evacuation, the Fire Department has the Wildland Evacuation Map and a draft Tsunami Evacuation Map (Attachments 5 and 6). As the Fire Department is involved in the development of operational and capital street improvements, they are responsible for commenting and shaping projects to accommodate evacuation needs.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Request from Councilmembers Self and Rowse
2. Primary Emergency Response Map
3. MTD Downtown Bus Routes Map
4. MTD All Bus Routes Map
5. Wildland Evacuation Map
6. Draft Tsunami Evacuation Map

PREPARED BY: Christine F. Andersen, Public Works Director/RD/kts

SUBMITTED BY: Christine F. Andersen, Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office



City of Santa Barbara
City Administrator's Office

Memorandum

DATE: July 19, 2011

TO: Jim Armstrong, City Administrator

FROM: Councilmember Michael Self
Councilmember Randy Rowse

SUBJECT: Maintenance and protection of City of Santa Barbara, bus, truck, capacity, emergency and evacuation routes.

Pursuant to Council Resolution 05-073 regarding the Conduct of City Council Meetings, we request that an item be placed on the Santa Barbara City Council Agenda regarding maintenance and preservation of bus, truck, capacity, emergency and evacuation routes within the City of Santa Barbara.

- Summary of information to be presented:

We are requesting the City Council consider policies that would preserve the current bus, truck, capacity, emergency and evacuation routes established by the Santa Barbara Fire Department (SBFD), Metropolitan Transit District (MTD), and the City of Santa Barbara Municipal Code.

- Statement of Specific Action:

Recommendation: That Council adopts a Resolution to ensure the safety of the people in the City of Santa Barbara by preserving and maintaining existing emergency evacuation routes and to prevent any obstructions of traffic that might impair the above-mentioned routes, which include but are not limited to bulb-outs, medians, mini-roundabouts and/or restriping of lanes. Remove any proposed or mandated street or curb reconfiguration, and/or lane narrowing by any City Department, Committee or Commission, or any other governmental agency within the jurisdiction of the City of Santa Barbara or as stated within the Capital Improvement Program that would impair the above-mentioned capacity, emergency routes. Medians must be approved by SBFD prior to installation, including but not limited to the Leadbetter Beachway Connection; the narrowing of State Street at Cabrillo Blvd, and the State Street - Alamar Avenue intersection.

Statement of the Reasons Why it is Appropriate and Within the Jurisdiction of the Council to Consider this Subject Matter and to Take the Requested Action:

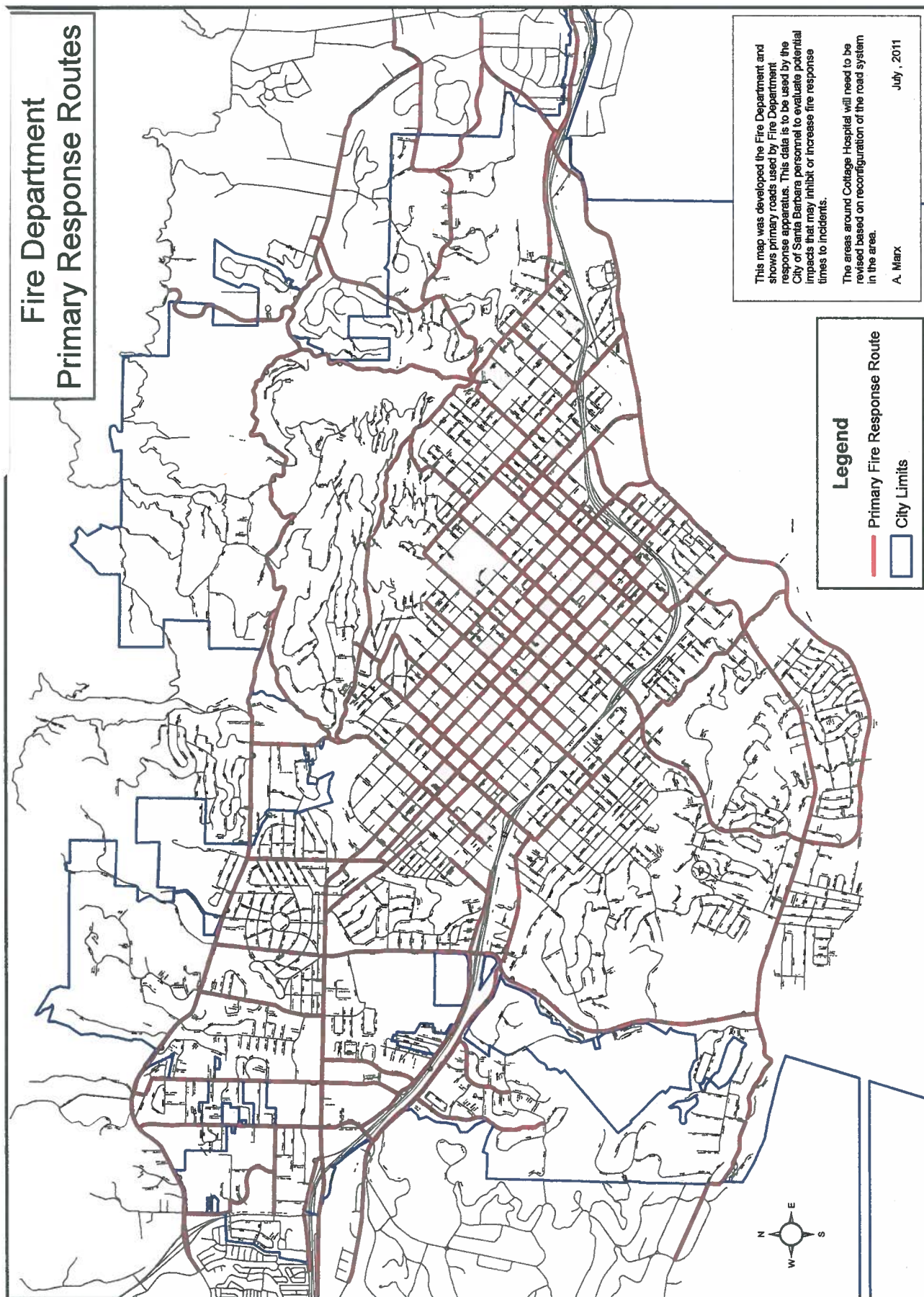
A Council discussion of this subject is appropriate and within the jurisdiction of the City Council and is necessary for the safety of the community.

We are requesting that this be scheduled for the Tuesday, August 23, 2011, agenda.

cc: Mayor and Council
City Attorney
Community Development Director, Public Works Director

ATTACHMENT 2

Fire Department Primary Response Routes

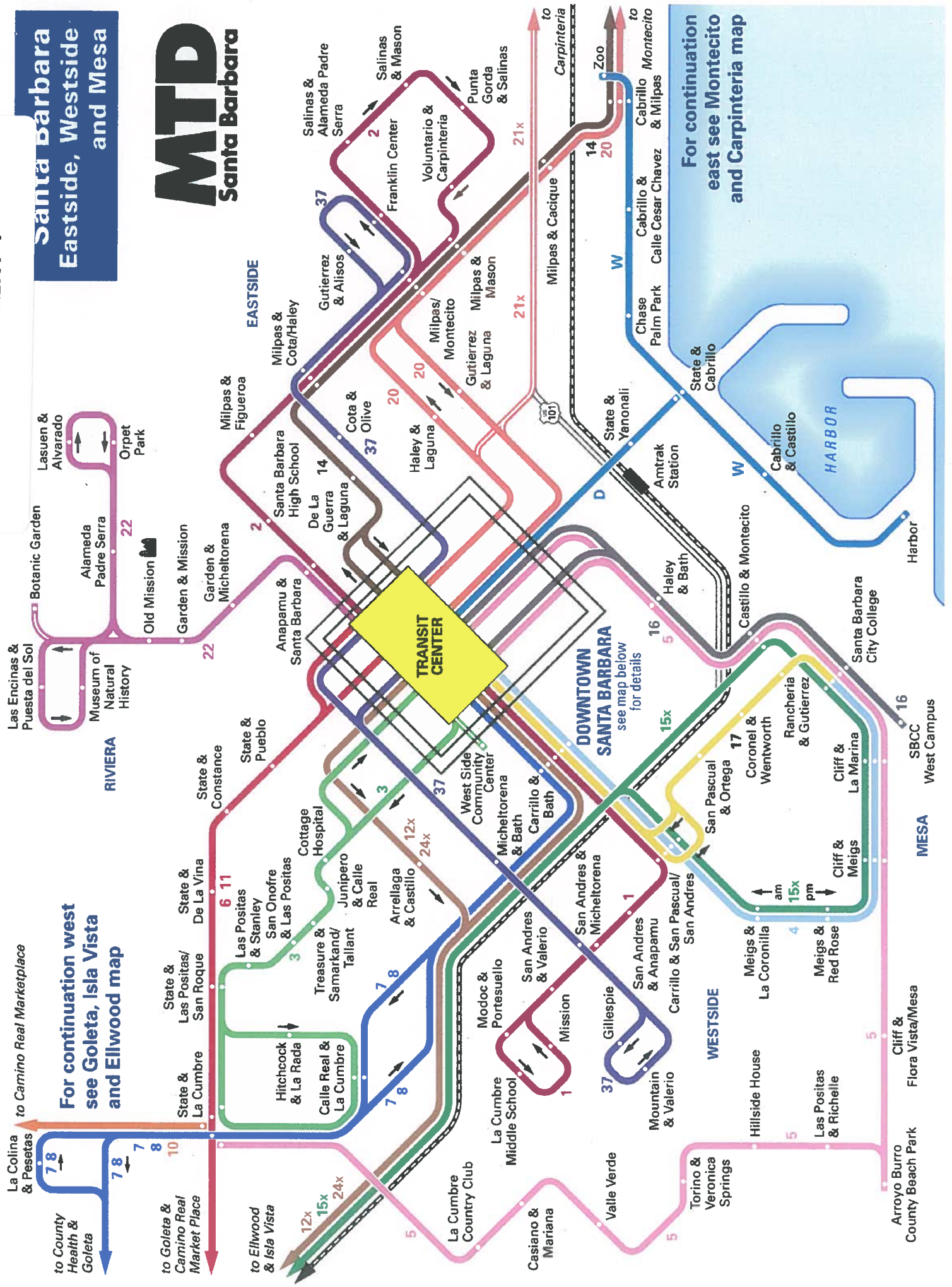


DOWNTOWN SANTA BARBARA

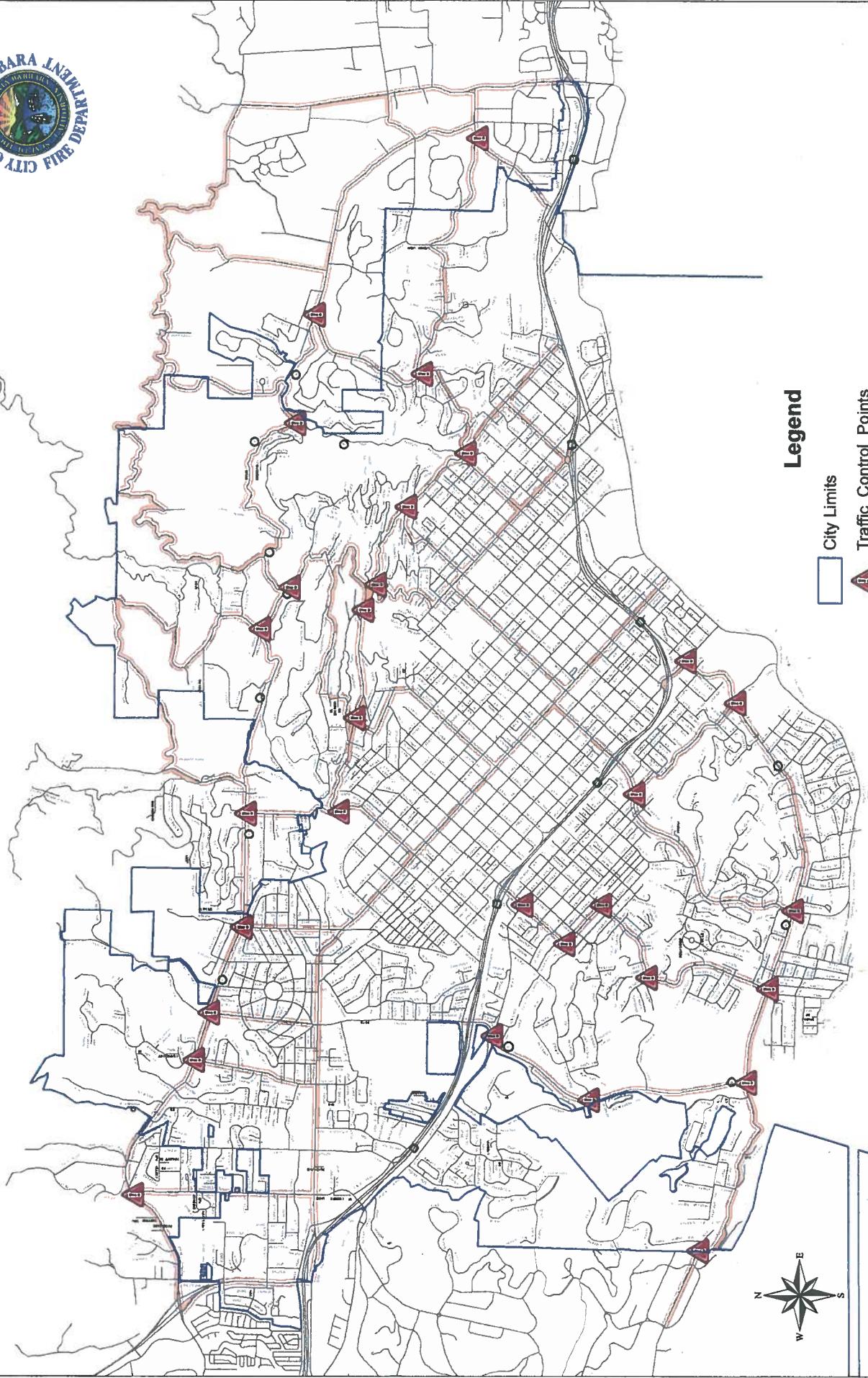


**Santa Barbara
Eastside, Westside
and Mesa**

MTD
Santa Barbara



ATTACHMENT 5



Legend



City Limits



Traffic_Control_Points



Wildland Emergency Evacuation Routes

ATTACHMENT 6

